

50 Years of Excellence in Space and Missile Defense

Program Executive Office marks 15 years

SMDC/ARSTRAT Historical Office

During the 1991 State of the Union address, President George H.W. Bush announced a new direction for the Strategic Defense Initiative. It was refocused to provide protection from limited ballistic missile strikes, whatever their source. Bush concluded, "Let us pursue an SDI program that can deal with any future threat to the United States, our forces overseas and to our friends and allies." The response was Global Protection Against Limited Strikes or GPALS, which would be composed of a national missile defense system, a theater missile defense system and a space-based global defense system.

As a result of these initiatives, 1992 was a significant year for both the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command and the Program Executive Office Missiles and Space. On July 29, 1992, the PEO GPALS was formally established. In August of that year, our command became the U.S. Army Space and Strategic Defense Command with the addition of the Army Space Command. At the same time, a number of programs developed by the PEO GPALS. Essentially the PEO Air Defense and the PEO Strategic Defense were dissolved and reorganized as the PEO GPALS.



The newly established GPALS was composed of two program offices – NMD (National Missile Defense) and TMD (Theater Missile Defense). This command contributed the Ground Based Interceptor, Ground Based Radar, Ground-based Surveillance and Tracking System, Site Defense and Regional Operations Center/Communications Project Offices to the NMD Program Office and Theater High Altitude Area Defense and Extended Range Interceptor Project Offices and Adjunct Sensors, Arrow and Testbed Product Offices to the TMD Program Office. Other key elements were the Corps SAM

and Patriot Projects Offices from the PEO Air Defense.

In May 1993, the PEO GPALS was renamed the PEO for Missile Defense with no change to the mission or resources.



On July 18, 1996, the PEO Missile Defense officially became the PEO Air and Missile Defense (AMD). As PEO, Col. (P) Daniel L. Montgomery explained: "The PEO's new name captures the full mission of the PEO by appropriately including air defense in the title."



Montgomery added "Air defense has historically included all threat platforms in the air or space — whether they are air breathing or not. Our systems now labeled TMD, with the exception of THAAD [Theater High Altitude Area Defense], are also aircraft, cruise missile and helicopter killers."

Another significant change came in September 2001, when Kenneth Oscar, acting Army acquisition executive, announced program realignments. The Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, a predecessor to the Missile Defense Agency, was to focus upon strategic missile defense. At the same time, the Army was restructuring the PEOs with a "single integrated commodity focus."

As a result, the PEO AMD gained the Lower Tier Program from BMDO and the Short Range Air Defense or SHORAD program, which manages the Avenger, Sentinel and Stinger systems and the proposed Surface Launched Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (SLAMRAAM), from the Aviation and Missile Command.

The PEO's THAAD and Arrow programs meanwhile transitioned to the BMDO as

did the command's Ballistic Missile Targets Joint Project Office. The new Lower Tier Project Office, composed of the PATRIOT and Medium Extended Air Defense System (MEADS) programs was designed to "streamline the management of lower tier systems" and "take maximum advantage from lessons learned from our legacy systems to ensure that interim and objective lower tier systems meet operational requirements at reduced cost." The Joint Tactical Ground Station (JTAGS) Project Office was unchanged by the reorganizations.

The mission of the PEO AMD continued to grow in March 2003, when the Mobile Tactical High Energy Laser transferred from SMDC to the SHORAD Project Office. This move was made to comply with the October 2001 guidance to realign acquisition programs to the PEO structure.

Soon thereafter, in June 2003, the organization's name changed to the PEO Air, Space and Missile Defense (ASMD). The name change recognized the transfer of several space related programs from SMDC. These were the Army Core Space Program Office, which incorporates the space control toolkit, the Army Space Program Office, which includes such efforts as Blue Force Tracking, Situational Awareness, the Army's TENCAP and the Tactical Applications Office Program.



As a result of this reorganization, the PEO became the first Army Space Program Executive Office. Maj. Gen. John Urias observed that "having a single PEO to manage and integrate these systems will help institutionalize the use of space products in the Army. It will also provide a transition point for mature space technologies developed within SMDC to be brought into the formal acquisition cycle and incorporated into future space

products."

In August 2004, Army Acquisition Executive Claude Bolton and Army Materiel Command Commander Gen. Paul Kern signed a memorandum that redefined the management of future weapon systems. They established of life-cycle management centers which would merge the 12 PEOs with commodity commands operating under AMC.

The Aviation and Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal was the first Life Cycle Management Command (LCMC) established. The new organization was composed of the former AMCOM and the PEO Aviation. The PEO Tactical Missiles and PEO ASMD later merged into a single new organization — PEO Missiles and Space in January 2005. Six months later, they too became a part of the LCMC.

In the interim, in January 2005, the Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor or JLENS Project Office transferred to the PEO as part of the Cruise Missile Defense Systems Project Office, formerly the SHORAD Project Office. Another change came in April, when it was announced that the Space Control and Space Division activities were to transition back to SMDC.

Then, in September, it was directed that the Army Space Program Office was to move to the PEO Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors. The JLENS Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment (RAID) Product Office (Provisional) also transferred to this organization in January 2006.

Through its 15-year history, the PEO has seen many changes. Its systems have been developed and tested, deployed to the field, and employed in combat. These accomplishments were recognized by Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer on Jan. 6, 2007 when she proclaimed this date PEO Missiles and Space Day in recognition of the PEO's "contributions to the Army's missile defense program."

